

CONFIDENTIAL PTO2894

PAGE 01 HARARE 02743 181640Z
ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	CPR-02	DODE-00	SRPP-00	VC-00	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SSC-01
	SSO-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DRL-02
	G-00	SAS-00	/008W				

-----2108C4 181640Z /68

FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9748
INFO NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 002743

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR JENDAYI FRAZER
LONDON FOR GURNEY
PARIS FOR NEARY
NAIROBI FOR PFLAUMER

E.O. 12958: DECL. 09/17/11
TAGS: [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [PGOV](#) [Z1](#)
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF IFES EXPULSION WITH MFA

REFS: A) HARARE 2710 B) HARARE 2690

CLASSIFIED BY DCM ROBERT WHITEHEAD. REASONS: 1.5 (B) AND (D).

1. (C) IN A SEPTEMBER 17 MEETING WITH MFA DIVISION DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS JONATHAN WUTAWUNASHE, CHARGE ROTH RAISED U.S. CONCERNS ABOUT THE EXPULSION OF THE TEAM FROM THE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR ELECTION SYSTEMS (IFES -- REF B), AND PROVIDED A COPY OF THE EMBASSY'S SEPTEMBER 13 DIPLOMATIC NOTE ON THIS MATTER. THE CHARGE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ELECTION OBSERVATION IS A SENSITIVE ISSUE AND ASKED FOR A CLEARER SENSE OF THE GOZ'S POSITION ON WHETHER INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS WOULD BE PERMITTED IN THE RUN-UP TO THE 2002 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

2. (C) WUTAWUNASHE REPLIED THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST HE HAD HEARD OF THE MATTER; HE HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY SEEN A COPY OF OUR DIPLOMATIC NOTE. TOLD THAT THE TEAM HAD NOT NOTIFIED THE GOZ PRIOR TO ITS VISIT, WUTAWUNASHE SAID THAT WAS LIKELY THE CORE OF THEIR DIFFICULTIES. ELECTION OBSERVERS, HE INSISTED, SHOULD BE INVITED INTO ZIMBABWE, NOT "FOIST THEMSELVES" ONTO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS. WUTAWUNASHE SAID ZIMBABWE HAS ALWAYS HELD ELECTIONS "ON TIME." HE ACKNOWLEDGED THE ZIMBABWE HAD EXPERIENCED ELECTION-RELATED PROBLEMS SUCH AS VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION, BUT HE EMPHASIZED THAT ZANU-PF SUPPORTERS ARE NOT ALWAYS THE PERPETRATORS. THE "OTHER GUYS," HE INSISTED, "ARE NOT HELPLESS." THAT, ROTH RESPONDED, IS WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE CREDIBLE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS HERE, SO THAT THEY CAN DOCUMENT PROBLEMS AND WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEM.

3. (C) THERE IS A CERTAIN "PSYCHOLOGY" AND "PARANOIA" PREVAILING WITHIN THE GOZ, WUTAWUNASHE REPLIED, THAT LEADS MANY OFFICIALS TO CONCLUDE THAT THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN "CONFERENCES" IN FOREIGN CAPITALS CALLING FOR MUGABE'S DEPARTURE AND THE PRESSURE FROM GROUPS WANTING TO MONITOR THE ELECTIONS. THERE IS A

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HARARE 02743 181640Z
PERCEPTION AMONG MANY, WUTAWUNASHE POINTED OUT, THAT THE MDC WAS NOT FORMED IN ZIMBABWE BUT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND THAT THE OPPOSITION'S ACTIVITIES ARE NOT "HOME-GROWN." THE CHARGE SAID HE WAS AWARE OF THAT PERCEPTION. THAT IS WHY THE UNITED STATES WANTS TO FOLLOW ZIMBABWE'S RULES AND WHY WE WERE SEEKING CLARIFICATION ON HOW TO PROCEED. WUTAWUNASHE RESPONDED ONLY THAT "A LITTLE BIT OF PATIENCE ON THE PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WOULD BE A GOOD THING."

COMMENT

4. (C) IT WAS APPARENT THAT WUTAWUNASHE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN PROVIDING CLARIFICATION ON THE GROUND RULES FOR INTERNATIONAL ELECTION OBSERVERS. HIS DESCRIPTION OF PARANOIA WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND RULING PARTY, HOWEVER, IS SPOT ON. WE ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THAT THE GOZ WILL USE PROCEDURAL AND OTHER ROADBLOCKS TO PREVENT VISITS BY OBSERVER MISSIONS WHOSE ASSESSMENTS OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS MIGHT NOT BE FAVORABLE, LIKELY UNTIL JUST BEFORE THE ELECTION ITSELF. SEVERAL DAYS AFTER IFES'S EXPULSION, A SIMILAR -- BUT MUCH LARGER -- EU TEAM SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE ON SEPTEMBER 23 WAS TOLD IT COULD NOT COME UNTIL IT HAD RECEIVED AN INVITATION FROM THE GOZ (SEPTEL). THE GOZ, NOT SURPRISINGLY, DECLINED TO PROVIDE ANY DETAILS ON WHEN SUCH AN INVITATION MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING.

ROTH

CONFIDENTIAL

>